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Our Vision

Transforming the diverse communities in Maryland to advance health and wellness by optimizing movement and function across the lifespan.

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
240 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 659 - Health Insurance - Utilization Review - Exemption for Participation in Value-Based Care Arrangements
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk,

The American Physical Therapy Association Maryland is writing to register our strong support of **House Bill 659**. This bill will prohibit *“certain carriers from imposing a prior authorization, step therapy, or quantity limit requirement on eligible providers for health care services that are included in a two-sided incentive arrangement.”*

Medicare and commercial payers continue the move toward value-based payment, shifting from payment solely based on the volume of care, such as traditional fee-for-service, to payment more closely related to outcomes of care. Value-based payment models use measures of quality and cost to determine payment for providers. Ensuring high quality of care while controlling cost is key to success in these models. Physical therapists must use standardized quality measures to articulate the value they bring to the health care system, as the shift toward payment that is dependent upon quality-measure performance continues.

Given the design of value-based models and the close interaction between Patient – Provider – Insurer it makes sense to all involved to avoid the administrative burdens that accompany utilization review criteria.

For the reasons noted above we ask for a favorable report on House Bill 659.

Sincerely,



Roy Film, PT, DPT, MPT
President, APTA Maryland